

American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont, MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their hearts July 2020

America's Hope

By: Steve Huston



"America! America! God shed His grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood; From sea to shining sea!" The words to this familiar patriotic song serve to remind us that it is only by God's grace that this nation rose to the heights that is has. It reminds us, as a nation, to focus on the Holy God who has united us rather than on the sin, hatred, and self-promoting that is dividing us.

Looking at the vast divisions of our day reminds me of the division that almost ripped this country apart before we were even fully united. In 1787, Benjamin Franklin called upon the framers of our Constitution to have real conversations with others that held opposing views and to pray for guidance from God. These are the words,

in part, that he used:

"...groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? ... I've lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing Proofs I see of this Truth — That God governs in the Affairs of Men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his Notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without his Aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that except the Lord build the House they labor in vain who build it. I firmly believe this, — and I also believe that without his concurring Aid, we shall succeed in this political Building no better than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our little partial local interests; our Projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a Reproach and Bye word down to future Ages."

Virtue was a key word for our founders. Unity, under the Hand of God, was their goal. As our nation has replaced Biblical virtue with vanity; and as our society rebels against the authority of God and His Word; we have "become a Reproach and Bye word" to this future age. As Thomas Sowell wrote, *"Much of the social history of the Western world, over the past three decades, has been a history of replacing what worked with what sounded good."* God's Word has worked; but we've replaced it with man's good-sounding words.

This has even happened in the church. Instead of only having an ear and an appetite for God and His Word, we have been distracted by that which, according to man's standard, sounds good. We bow to theories of evolution, sex, and gender, rather than bowing to the Truth. Desiring to seem wise, we have become fools and have held the Truth in unrighteousness. This is why the church has traded freedom for "safety" and

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salvation is imperative.

Now, join with other true believers, encouraging one another to the following.

Second: Remember! *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:”* (Psalms 103:2) Remember America’s Christian heritage, the grace God has shed upon our land and upon our hearts, the unity we achieved, and the God-given freedoms for which we fought against earthly tyrants.

Third: Repent! Weep not only at what we’ve lost; weep at the ungodly path we took. Turn around! Forsake ungodliness and chase after holiness of heart and life. *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”* (James 4:8-10)

Fourth: Return! Our nation was founded on Biblical principles and fervent prayer. When trouble came

we were called to days of fasting and humiliation. Come back to these first works and teach others to do likewise—holy living reproduced. Let us return to teaching others about God’s hand in our history, the difference between the holy and the profane, and share an expectation for holiness. *“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.”* (Ezra 7:10)

Fifth: Rejoice! Whether God will have mercy upon this land or not, we can still rejoice in His goodness and grace to us personally. We are ripe for judgment; He will do according to His will. We can rejoice in affliction or in peace because He is our peace; He is our comfort; He is our Hope. *“Rejoice evermore.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

Regardless of what others say or do, let us faithfully stand firm, staking our position according to the Bible. *“Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors.”* (Psalms 119:23-24)

why our nation is falling apart.

What can we do?

When Jesus answered the rich young ruler who asked, “What must I do to be saved?” He said, *“Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, soul, mind, and strength; love your neighbor as yourself.”* To the church at Ephesus, in Revelation chapter 2, this same Jesus warned, *“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”* (v. 5)

First: Regeneration! Be sure **you** are right with God. *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”* (Mark 8:36) The weapons in this struggle are spiritual; if we remain carnal, how will we successfully combat the enemy? Even if the nation falls, our spiritual



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